

International Application No  
PCT/US 03/33605

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 7 A61F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched.

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

**EPO-Internal**

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X A	US 2001/020190 A1 (TAYLOR THOMAS V) 6 September 2001 (2001-09-06)  paragraphs '00441, '00451 figure 2A	14-19, 21, 23 20, 22
X	US 6 264 700 B1 (KILCOYNE JOHN ET AL) 24 July 2001 (2001-07-24) the whole document	14
X	EP 0 775 471 A (SCHNEIDER EUROP AG) 28 May 1997 (1997-05-28) the whole document	14
X	US 5 861 036 A (GODIN NORMAN) 19 January 1999 (1999-01-19) the whole document	14

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**Y** Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

**Potential family members are listed in annex.**

<sup>b</sup> Special categories of cited documents:

- "A"** document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E"** earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "I"** document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O"** document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P"** document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- T** later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- X** document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- Y** document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- Z** document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

**8 March 2004**

Date of mailing of the international search report

**29/03/2004**

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No  
PCT/US 03/33605

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 314 473 A (GODIN NORMAN J) 24 May 1994 (1994-05-24) the whole document	14
X	US 4 846 836 A (REICH JONATHAN D) 11 July 1989 (1989-07-11) the whole document	14

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
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## Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: 1-13, 24-42  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:  
**Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery**
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.  
☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2001020190 A1	06-09-2001	US 6254642 B1 US 2001020189 A1	03-07-2001 06-09-2001
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US 4846836 A	11-07-1989	NONE	